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Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

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UNITED NATIONS POPULATION FUND

Extension of country programme in the West and Central Africa region

Note by the Executive Director

Summary

The present note contains information on the second extension for one year of the UNFPA country programme for Guinea-Bissau.

In accordance with established procedures, the Executive Director approves six-month extensions and first one-year extensions of country programmes, while requests for extensions for a second or third, or two-year extensions, are submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

The Executive Board may wish to approve the exceptional second extension of the country programme for Guinea-Bissau for one year, as indicated in the attached table.

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Table 1. Country programme extension for which the approval of the Executive Board is sought

Country	Original programme period	Year proposed for extension	Explanation		
			United Nations harmonization	In-country political development	Implementation and/or other issues
Guinea-Bissau	2008-2012 2013-2014 (first two-year extension)	2015 (second extension for one year)	The United Nations Development Assistance Framework, 2008-2012, was extended for two years to the end of 2014. The regional United Nations Development Group team has approved a further extension of one year to the end of 2015. Due to the political calendar, with presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for April 2014, and a very probable second round of presidential elections foreseen for May 2014, a new government will not be formed in time to enable discussion and elaboration of the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework and country programmes in time for submission to the Executive Board in 2014. The programming process will start in the second half of 2014, when a new government is in place.	Guinea-Bissau has suffered a long period of political and social instability, aggravated by the coup d'état of April 2012. Although the political situation remains fragile and volatile, the planned elections in 2014 offer hope for a new beginning. Two years after the coup d'etat, the economic and social conditions in the country have worsened. Social services have further weakened, and revenues have further dwindled. The presidential and parliamentary elections, scheduled for April 2014, are supported by various partners, most significantly the Economic Community of West African States, the European Union and Timor-Leste. Peaceful conclusion of this process and successful mobilization of resources to rebuild institutions and reestablish services for the population will be vital for the country to come out of the current impasse. The support of the United Nations system in Guinea-Bissau, including UNFPA support for reproductive health, provides a vital life line for the population, given the very weak capacity of the state and diminished social services.	The extension will ensure continued implementation of the ongoing programme, including all of its components. The programme has been aligned to the new UNFPA strategic plan, 2014-2017. The components include: (a) increasing availability and use of integrated sexual and reproductive health services (including family planning, maternal health and HIV/AIDS); (b) increasing availability of sexual and reproductive health services, including sexuality education for young people, especially adolescent girls; (c) advancing gender equality and women's empowerment; and (d) strengthening related national policies and the international development agenda. The programme will adjust to address emerging issues and humanitarian needs in case of social disturbance or conflict arising out of the elections or other events.